

**Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)
Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR)**

Online Herbivore Feedback Form Responses

Three virtual scoping sessions were held on December 11th, 13th, and 15th of 2021 to discuss new updates to the Statewide Herbivore Management Strategy, which included amendments to existing regulations and the proposal of new regulations. An online feedback/survey form was provided as an alternative method to provide comments, and was shared through various methods including email, social media, flyers, and the DAR [Holomua: Marine 30x30](#) website. A total of 33 comments were submitted online. This document summarizes the overall responses from these submissions, and are not a representation of DAR. Frequently asked questions (FAQ) from the scoping sessions are also available on the website [here](#), and summary notes from the meetings are posted on the [Participate in the Process](#) webpage.

Kala

The majority of survey participants (75%) expressed concern for the status of kala in Hawai'i, with these specific comments:

- Concern for the use of commercial gill nets vs. commercial bag nets was shared
- Support for slot limits
- Decrease in kala observed on Kaua'i, West Hawai'i, and South Shore of O'ahu
- Allow commercial take with a Total Allowable Catch (TAC) limit
- Ban lay nets
- Catch of undersized kala is one of the top cited resource use violations

78% of participants supported an increase in minimum size limit for kala from 14 inches to 15 inches, with additional comments below:

- Some opposed a minimum harvest size limit increase but supported a bag limit instead
- General support for some kind of regulation that would lead to a decrease in catch
- Support for these regulations for commercial catch, but not for recreational and subsistence fishing
- Too many commercial lay nets observed
- Just keep the current rule



73% of participants supported a bag limit for kala, with specific comments, including:

- Support for regulations that would result in a decrease of catch numbers, including a ban
- Suggestions for bag limit of 3-4, two participants suggested a bag limit of one instead of the proposed limit of two
- No support if commercial fishers are exempt from these rules
- Support for an annual catch limit, as opposed to a bag limit that is per person per day
- Provision for commercial catch to have different limits than non-commercial

Uhu

92% of survey participants expressed concern for uhu populations, with these specific comments:

- Decrease in abundance observed on Kaua'i and in general elsewhere
- Concern with commercial night divers and SCUBA leading to unsustainable harvests
- Concern with unsustainable harvests using lay nets
- No take of uhu at night should be implemented
- Keep minimum harvest size limit with added maximum size limit of 16 or 17 inches (slot limit)
- Full no take for 1-2 years (ban)
- No commercial sale of uhu with puncture wounds
- Should have commercial take with TAC limits

79% of participants supported an increase in a minimum size limit for uhu, with specific comments:

- Support for a complete ban of taking uhu
- Keep current minimum harvest size limits but add a maximum size limit (slot limit)
- Suggestion for minimum harvest size limit of 15 inches

88% of participants supported a bag limit for uhu, with specific comments:

- Suggestion of bag limit of 3 per person per day
- Suggestion of bag limit of 4 per person, if freediving
- Suggestion of bag limit of 1 per person
- Support a complete ban of uhu
- Suggestion that it should not be allowed to take or possess uhu at night

74% of participants supported the no take of blue uhu (identical to the Maui rules):

- Observation from Kaua'i- Blue uhu are rarely ever sighted

Manini

Just over half the survey participants (52%) had concerns over manini, with specific comments:

- Decreased abundance observed on Kaua'i
- General decrease in sizes observed
- Suggestion to ban laynets
- Concerns stated about laynets
- Suggestion to add a bag limit

78% of participants supported a minimum size limit increase for manini:

- Suggestion to ban take of manini
- Suggestion to increase minimum harvest size limit to 7 inches
- Observation provided- Rarely see any 6 inch manini

Kole

59% of survey participants showed concerns about kole populations:

- Seeing smaller kole and not that many large ones
- Seeing fewer kole
- Decreased abundance reported on Kaua'i
- Plenty still present in West Maui
- Suggestion to include a bag limit
- Concern raised: Why is DAR proposing regulations with no stock assessment?

74% of participants supported a 5 inch minimum size limit of kole:

- Suggestion to ban take of kole
- Suggestion that there should be no take of kole using spear
- Suggestion to include bag limits
- Suggestion of 4 inch minimum harvest size limit instead